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271, third line from end), and the dates for the various publications of the Romantic School (pp. 255-261). Certain statements are obscure. Thibaut (Theobald p. 70) of Champagne (p. 83) fought under Louis VIII., not under Simon de Montfort, as the order of events would indicate; Lafayette is *for* war with England (p. 344), and apparently *against* it (p. 356). Lamartine's *Jocelyn* (p. 260) is spoken of as prose, Hugo's *Han d'Islande* (l. c.) is made its contemporary, and George Sand (l. c.) is said to be a follower of Chateaubriand (not Châteaubriand—see index). The compliments paid to the Ecole des Chartes (pp. 372, 373) seem, from the allusion to natural science, intended for the École des Hautes Études. As the subject of the volume is the "French People," the sentence devoted to the poetry of Richard the Pilgrim (not preserved in its original form) and the crusade songs of William IX. (lost), on page 76, might be fittingly expanded into a paragraph on the relation of the national epic of France to the popular enthusiasm for the conquest of the Holy Land. But, these are slight blemishes in a work which is both strong and suggestive.

The bibliography is well chosen and the index full and correct.

F. M. WARREN.

The Two First Centuries of Florentine History: the Republic and Parties at the Time of Dante. By Professor PASQUALE VILLARI. Translated by LINDA VILLARI. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1901. Pp. xii, 576.)

PROFESSOR VILLARI'S history of Florence is a volume of nearly six hundred pages, made up for the most part of papers contributed to the *Nuova Antologia*, collected in 1895, and now given to the English-reading public. It is the result of a careful study of Florentine documents, critically applied to the statements of Villani and other early historians. The diction has the same characteristics of clearness and directness which have made the *Machiavelli* and the *Savonarola* so attractive; a Latin diction, refreshing after the kitchen-midden style of German composition. The translation is good, as might be expected from the experience of the translator, with here and there a reversion to the Italian idiom, as in the frequent use of "the which" for introducing relative clauses. The word "arisa" (p. 35 "the arisa of the communes") has an unfamiliar look. The book is plentifully supplied with illustrations, many of them reproductions of architectural remains of the Roman period.

Investigating the origins of Florence, as the community arose from the disastrous experiences of the Langobard invasion, Professor Villari seeks to steer a middle course between the chauvinistic conclusions of the German and the Latin schools. His judgment, however, and, perhaps, his sympathies reject the idea that the essential elements of reorganization are likely to have been contributed by the invaders. Why say, he suggests, that the Langobard invasion originated the new life following in Italy any more than that the French invasion of Napoleon, when the

French flag flew in every city in Germany, was responsible for the new Germanic impulse?

The main purpose of the author's labors, as stated in the introduction is, "to discover some leading thread through the mazes of Florentine history, which even when treated by great writers has often been found exceedingly involved and obscure." The early chroniclers were concerned with human passions and actions, and had little interest in the rise and growth of human institutions. They afford but little aid in determining such important events as the establishment of self-government in Florence. The documents themselves, in so far as they are at hand, are also inconclusive. The persistence of Roman terms over periods of important political change give an apparent similarity to institutions which are in reality widely divergent. The Florentine commune itself gives evidence of being well under way, when its independent character is first established from documentary evidence. This is due, in part at least, to the fact that the birth of the commune was unaccompanied with any great political upheaval. On the death of the Countess Matilda, in 1115, Tuscany was split into fragments by the dispute between Emperor and Pope. The fact that Henry IV. naturally leaned for support on the Germanic nobles of the *contado* threw the city into a position of hostility toward the imperial claims. Standing between the rival powers, too proud and too conscious of her strength to feel the need of subjecting herself to either, Florence found her advantage in independence. This implied no drastic change. The same *grandi*, who, under the mild rule of the Countess, had administered the affairs of the city in her name, continued to rule by the authority of the people, becoming consuls of the commune. In this manner a popular government was achieved with a minimum of change and invention. Popular choice, however, brought about a wider distribution of civic honors, and certain great clans, aggrieved at the loss of the monopoly of power they had enjoyed under the Countess, allied themselves to the imperial interests and brought about a division of the great families into Ghibellines and Guelphs, with the ensuing civil strife which forms the background of Dante's history.

Many other problems of early Florentine history are interestingly treated: the origin and rise of the Podestà; the repeated attempts to perfect the constitution; in Chapter VI. the rise of the wool-dyeing industry, and the subsequent development of weaving. That the Florentines should have been content for so long to import coarse "Frankish" stuffs from the looms of Flanders is due to the unfavorable attitude of the commune toward agriculture. The Italian wool, although extensively manufactured into coarse fabrics for domestic use, was of poor quality. No effort was made to improve the breed of sheep. Indeed, the laws and decrees relating to trade are full of good sense and foresight, while all concerning agriculture seem dictated by prejudice and jealousy. Chapter VII. is a study of the Florentine family in its relation to the state; Chapter VIII. treats of the judicial system; both institutions be-

ing carried through the late imperial, Langobard and republican times. The remaining two chapters deal with Dante and the social conditions of Florence in his day.

MERRICK WHITCOMB.

Mediæval Rome, from Hildebrand to Clement VIII., 1073-1600.

By WILLIAM MILLER. [The Story of the Nations Series.]
(New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1902. Pp. xiii, 373.)

THE object of the book, as stated in the preface, is to furnish to people who have not time to read the longer works, as Gregorovius, a short history of mediæval Rome, the author having especially in mind the numerous British and American visitors of that city. The work is based on the best secondary authorities, no claim to original research being made, except in so far as a thorough familiarity with modern Rome and other places alluded to in the text is concerned.

The extreme difficulty, perhaps impossibility, of giving a satisfactory brief popular account of Rome in the Middle Ages is here illustrated. The question immediately presents itself, what is to be done with the papacy. If we try to consider the city without the papacy its history during that time is, of all considerable Italian cities, the most petty and unprofitable. If we try to get an adequate understanding of papal history we are led far away from Rome, and our short history immediately expands to an impossible length. The present work tries to steer between these two alternatives by giving an account of those events in papal history that happened in or near Rome, and pretty thoroughly neglecting everything else. The result is in the last degree confusing. The uninformed reader can gain no intelligent notion whatever of the investiture contest or the conciliar movement of the fifteenth century, while the kidnapping of Gregory VII., the pageantry at the consecration of Innocent III., and the story of Djem are given much space. Even a matter so locally important as the territorial policy of the popes is treated in no connected and coherent manner. The author is chary of generalizations ; we are given no guiding threads to follow ; he writes like a chronicler recording what has happened from pontificate to pontificate, rarely seeking to show the connection with what goes before and what follows except where there is some supposed resemblance or analogy to something extremely modern. We are left in what was presumably the state of mind of some naïve and rather ignorant contemporary who saw many striking and bloody happenings at Rome, but was much in the dark as to what it was all about. It is a sort of truncated papacy that is given us, where all the more important sources and results of action lie in the portion that has been cut off.

After the papacy, the matter receiving most attention is the history of external material Rome ; to show how Rome as left by the emperors and early barbarians was modified, destroyed, or added to by popes or nobles during the mediæval period. Here is shown very full knowledge and careful study on the part of the author, but the practical use of the